

The role of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles

Each year about 5,000 BC drivers are required to take a re-test. Under BC's *Motor Vehicle Act*, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles may refuse to issue or may cancel a driver's licence if the holder of a licence has a medical condition or disability that affects his or her fitness or ability to drive safely. The Superintendent may also require a driver to undergo a medical exam, may place a driving restriction on the driver or require the driver to take further tests. ICBC administers the driving tests on behalf of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.

Driver's re-test - What to expect

Medical exam – You will be required to take a medical exam when:

- You are approaching your 80th birthday.
- It's time to review a previously identified medical condition that may affect your ability to drive safely.
- You, a medical expert, police officer or someone else reports a possible or known condition that may affect your fitness or ability to drive safely.
- You are or wish to become a commercial driver.

You will receive a *Drivers Medical Examination* form in the mail if a medical exam is required. Take it to your doctor who will complete the form and mail it in. (Your doctor may charge for this service.) This must be done within 45 days or your licence may be cancelled. The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles will let you know if further testing is required or if the status of your driver's licence has changed as a result of what has been stated on the form.

Driver's re-test – If you are required to take a re-test, you will receive notice by mail. You will have 30 days to book your test; call or visit your nearest licensing office to book an appointment. Expect the appointment to last as much as 1 1/2 hours. The good news is that re-tests required by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles are conducted at no charge. When you come for the test:

- Your vision will be checked.
- You will take a road signs and signals test and answer a few questions relating to traffic safety.
- You will take the road test.

What to take with you – Take the following when you go for your test:

- Two pieces of identification, one primary piece (such as your BC driver's licence or a Canadian Birth Certificate) and one secondary piece (such as a credit card or your BC Care Card). Talk to your local driver services centre if you need more information.
- Eyeglasses if you use them for reading or driving.
- Your vehicle insurance papers. They must be valid.
- The vehicle you normally drive.

The road test – Today's road test is very different from the one you probably took many years ago. It is much more comprehensive and takes about an hour (about 45 minutes actually doing the road test and about 15 minutes during which your examiner will give you some feedback on your driving). Your examiner will assess your ability to use the following skills:

- Observation (e.g., shoulder checks)
- Maintaining space margins (e.g., following at a safe distance)
- Speed control (e.g., keeping to posted speeds, appropriate acceleration and deceleration)
- Steering (e.g., turning)
- Communication (e.g., establishing eye contact with other drivers)

- Your ability to perceive hazards
- Your ability to enter a high-speed roadway

Preparing for your re-test

There's a lot you can do to prepare for a driver's re-test. If driving is important to you, preparation will increase your chance of success. Here are some of the things you can do:

- Go to your nearest driver licensing centre and obtain copies of the two guidebooks *Road Sense for Drivers* and *Tuning Up for Drivers* as well as the brochure *How to Prepare for Driver Licensing Tests*. Read these materials and use them as you prepare for your re-exam. These are BC's official driver licensing guides and are available free of charge.
- Take the *Practice Knowledge Test*. It is available online at www.icbc.com/licensing/opkt.asp
- Go to your public library and obtain a copy of the video *BC: Safe Drivers Wanted*. This video of a road test will show you what to expect. It is available at many public libraries.
- Review the *Safety Tips from Driver Examiners*. They are available online at www.icbc.com/licensing/drivingtips/tips_index.asp
- Attend a *Living Well, Driving Well* workshop for mature drivers, visit our website at MatureDrivers.ca or visit your local BCAA office to obtain a copy of the *Mature Driver's Handbook*.
- Practice your driving. You may even consider taking a few driving lessons from a professional.

What if I don't pass?

It may seem like it, but it's not the end of the world if you don't pass. You will have to turn in your driver's licence, but in most cases, you will be given a learner's licence. This means that you can only drive with a licensed, adult driver. In most cases you will be given two more chances to pass your re-test (you have a total of three chances).

If you don't pass after three attempts, remember that there are alternatives to driving. Go to our website at www.tsf-bcaa.com/plan_ahead. This page will help you start planning ahead. Download and print the fact sheet *Mature Drivers Planning Ahead*.

You are not alone

Remember that you are not alone.

- Talk with other seniors about how you feel and you will no doubt find that there are others in the same situation who are facing the same fears.
- Talk to family members and friends, let them know about your concerns and ask them for their help and support.
- Remain active and connected no matter how you spend your time (e.g., get together with a friend, visit your local senior's centre).

For more information

- Attend a *Living Well, Driving Well* workshop for mature drivers. Find out when there will be a workshop in your community. Call toll-free 1-877-297-2254 or e-mail MDrivers@bcaa.com
- Visit our website at MatureDrivers.ca
- Visit your local BCAA office for a copy of the *Mature Driver's Handbook*.



MatureDrivers.ca

